

were killed at Essex on the 11th of that month and sent to me. At Portland, three were seen Dec. 14, and five on the 22d—specimens being taken at each date which are in my collection. I have never seen Brünnich's Murre in this immediate vicinity before.

Porzana noveboracensis.—Three specimens of this rarely seen Rail were shot here during September and October, 1894.

Ceophlœus pileatus.—Mr. Gurdon Trumbull tells me that a Pileated Woodpecker was seen at Granby, Conn., during the early part of the winter of 1894-95. It was followed a mile or more and fully identified but was not captured. This bird was in practically the same locality where one was killed Nov. 1, 1890 (Auk, X, 1893, 371).

Vireo philadelphicus.—A female was taken here September 17, 1894, by Mr. Samuel Robinson and is in my cabinet. It was found among some large willows on an island in the Connecticut River, and shot within a few feet of the spot where he killed a specimen September 21, 1893 (Auk, XI, 1894, 181).—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

Bird Notes from St. Albans, Vermont.—The Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), so far as my knowledge goes was first found here in December, 1892, at which time specimens were easily procured and added to the cabinet. They came in large numbers to St. Albans Bay, an arm of Lake Champlain, some three miles from town, during the winter of 1892, returning in the winter of 1893, when a specimen was shot on the 13th of December. In January, 1894, another specimen was shot in Richford, an inland town bordering on the Canada line. In the past December they came by thousands, the lake seeming, in places, fairly swarming with them. One sportsman shot 200, and each gunner brought more or less of them to town, many of which were taken alive. Those who have shot them say they are so tame one can almost catch them in their hands. They are in poor condition, apparently starving, and very many have been frozen into the ice and chopped out by fishermen.

The Florida Gallinule is also supposed to be of rare occurrence in Vermont, but for the past twenty years it has been common about Lake Champlain, breeding here also, as it is a regular autumn experience to come upon them with their young.

The Great-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) is also supposed to be of rare occurrence, the only record being from C. S. Paine of Randolph. I can echo Dr. Merriam's words, "that now it is certainly a really common bird," not only in Connecticut but in northern Vermont as well. Not only has nearly every piece of woods its 'Great-crest,' but I see it beside the roads, occasionally, in my drives.

Wilson's Stormy Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) has also been taken here, and, what is still more surprising, an elegant Meadowlark was given me the 6th of January last. It had been about the doors of a neighbor's house hunting for food and resting at night in willow trees that overhung the piazza; its fearless confidence in humanity meeting the

usual fate. Two weeks later a Saw-whet Owl was sent to me, a bird that asked only the hospitality of a night's lodging when the weather was inclement, and was dispatched with true American promptness. I considered the Meadowlark's presence at that time of year unprecedented in this locality, when the mercury often reminded us that we are near neighbors to the North Pole. Was it ever known to winter so far north before?

Is the Solitary Sandpiper (*Totanus solitarius*) known to swim under water? A friend of mine wounded one last summer when it fell from an overhanging rock to a little corner on the lake beach. He jumped down after it thinking it could not possibly get away, when it quickly went under water, a little ribbon of bubbles marking its way far out into the lake. In surprise he waited its reappearance, when it turned and came his way again, landing not far away when (poor bird) it was easily captured. The Spotted Sandpiper was sure to resort to the same tactics when pursued by a Hawk. I am delighted to say it made good its escape, coming up at a distance and putting its pursuer quite off the track. — NELLY HART WOODWORTH, *St. Albans, Vt.*

Some Rare Birds of Recent Occurrence near Buffalo, N.Y.—*Uria lomvia*. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.—Four stragglers of this species were seen here last fall; two of which were captured. One was shot near Irving on or about December 1, 1894, by 'Jake' Koch, a sportsman of local fame, who had it mounted and placed in the rooms of the Acacia Club in this city. The second was shot in Buffalo harbor by a gunner named Snyder who says that it is one of three that were flying past him at the time. This latter is now in my collection. Both were young birds which probably strayed from the coast via the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.

McIlwraith recorded in his 'Birds of Ontario' (p. 38) the capture of nearly fifty of these birds in various parts of the Province late in the fall of 1893, and it would be interesting to know if there were any considerable numbers of stragglers last fall. A short time ago Mr. J. L. Davidson of Lockport informed me that a correspondent of his shot four strange looking Ducks in Jefferson County which possibly were of this species. And recently 'Forest and Stream' was asked to identify a bird shot in the interior of New York State that from the description was evidently a Murre.

Larus marinus. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—An uncommon winter resident here though probably of regular occurrence. I have a specimen in immature plumage shot on Lake Erie in January, 1894. This winter I saw four adults on February 19 (1895), two on February 20, and one on the 22d. I tried hard to shoot one but was not successful as they were very shy. The Gulls — of which *L. argentatus smithsonianus* is the most common — usually rest quietly on the ice in the morning but appear in numbers in the afternoons to feed upon 'lizards' (*Necturus maculatus*) and bait (minnows) cast away by the fishermen.

Larus glaucus. GLAUCOUS GULL.—One shot on Niagara River, January 29, 1895, which I saw at a taxidermist's shop two days later.